



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
2005**

**Grade 6
Reading**

Reading

❶ Which sentence uses the word capital to mean “money of a business used to produce more wealth”?

- A. With the capital earned from the bake sale, the class bought supplies.
- B. The class headed to the capital to hear the governor.
- C. Some words, called proper nouns, always begin with capital letters.
- D. The debate on capital punishment went on and on.

❷ To offend someone means the same thing as to

- A. praise.
- B. win over.
- C. defend.
- D. insult.

This folktale tells the story of a talented shoemaker. Read the folktale and answer the questions that follow.

Gyffes Llaw

Sharon Bailly

In the little village of Tregaron lived a shoemaker and his three sons. The youngest son cut his leather with fine strokes and sewed his shoes with tight stitches, and so he was called Gyffes Llaw,* which means Deft Hand in Welsh.

2 So great was his skill with knife and needle that no one in the village would buy shoes unless Gyffes made them. The shoemaker told his other sons they must fetch and carry for Gyffes.

3 “We ought to make shoes while Gyffes fetches and carries,” muttered the brothers. “He is the youngest by far. Let’s sneak to his room this very night, bind him in his own bootlaces, and set him adrift on the River Teifi.”

But that night Gyffes heard them coming. The brothers had cobbled** their own shoes, and their shoes always creaked. Gyffes ran away, and the brothers could not find him no matter how they searched and listened, for Gyffes’s boots never creaked.

Gyffes walked many a mile that night and the next, until he came to a walled town. This town had two gates, with a shoemaker at each. Two or three people stood outside the shoemakers’ doors waiting for a turn at trying on shoes. “I shall set up a shop in the center of town,” said Gyffes. “There is work enough for a third shoemaker here.” He set up his shop and he worked so fast and so fine that soon no one in the town would buy shoes except from Gyffes.

The two other shoemakers muttered together. “We were good enough for the folk of this town before Gyffes Llaw arrived and we’ll be good enough again after he’s gone.” That very night, they decided to roll him up in his own sheets of leather and set him adrift on the River Teifi.

But Gyffes heard them coming. The shoemakers had made their own shoes, which pinched their feet and made them groan as they walked: *Ouch, ouch, ouch*. Gyffes ran away, and the shoemakers could

not catch him no matter how hard they searched and listened, for Gyffes’s boots never pinched.

Gyffes walked many a mile that night and the next and the next and the next, until he came to a walled city. This city had four gates with a shoemaker at each one. A long line of customers stood outside each shoemaker’s door, waiting for a turn at trying on shoes. “I shall set up a shop in the center of the city,” said Gyffes. “There is work enough for a fifth shoemaker here.” He set up his shop and he worked so fast and so fine that soon no one in the city would buy shoes except from Gyffes.

The four shoemakers muttered together. “We were good enough for the folk of this city before Gyffes Llaw arrived and we’ll be good enough again after he’s gone.” That very night, they decided to tie him up with his measuring tape and set him adrift on the River Teifi.

Now the shoemakers were quite aware that their own shoes creaked and pinched and made them groan: *Ouch, ouch, ouch*. So that very night, before they snuck into the house of Gyffes Llaw, they slipped off their shoes. Gyffes never heard them. They tied him up with his measuring tape and set him adrift on the River Teifi.

By and by the boat that carried Gyffes Llaw drifted all the way down the river and into the sea. At last it bumped up against a fisherman’s boat. “Help! Help!” called Gyffes Llaw. “If you will free me and take me aboard your boat, I will make you a fine pair of waterproof boots.”

“And who are you?” asked the fisherman.

“Gyffes Llaw.”

“Then welcome aboard,” said the fisherman, “for I have heard of you, and you are the finest shoemaker in Wales.”

While Gyffes Llaw cobbled the fisherman’s waterproof boots, he asked the fisherman where he came from and where he was going.

*Gyffes Llaw is pronounced GIFFS LAW

**cobbled: to make

"I come from a very small village across the sea," said the fisherman. "When my hold is full, I will sail all the long way to Cardiff and sell my fish to the king."

"Are there many shoemakers in Cardiff?" asked Gyffes.

"There are six gates to the city," said the fisherman, "and a shoemaker at each one. All their shoes pinch and creak. Indeed, rather than suffer the pain of their shoes, the king's daughter goes barefoot all year long."

"A barefoot princess!" said Gyffes Llaw. "What is she like?"

"She is so clever," said the fisherman, "that she manages the entire kingdom. Everyone prospers, no one begs, and there is fish upon every table. She is also beautiful, and every man who sees her wants to marry her. She refuses them all. Finally, her father, the king, told her that she must choose a husband. She said, 'I will marry, but the man I wed must come to me neither on horse nor on foot. He must welcome me neither inside nor out. He must stand above me yet remain beneath.' I wish that I knew such a man," said the fisherman. "I would send him to the princess and make his fortune."

Gyffes thought about the princess while he measured and cut his leather and sewed and fitted the fisherman's boots. He thought about the princess while he laced the laces and oiled the seams so that never a drop of water could pass through.

On the day he finished the waterproof boots, he said, "Fisherman, your hold is nearly full of bass and mackerel. Will you sail your boat to Cardiff right away? If you do, I will make a pair of sandals for your wife."

"Done," said the fisherman, and he sailed to the city straightaway.

When they had anchored the bobbing craft at the pier, Gyffes Llaw said, "Fisherman, will you take this message to the castle for me? If you do, I will make another pair of boots for your son."

"Done," said the fisherman.

The fisherman took the message to the castle. It said: *Beautiful shoes, well priced, won't creak, won't pinch. Gyffes Llaw at the Fisherman's Boat.*

"I shall visit this shoemaker," said the princess.

The fisherman hurried back to Gyffes Llaw with the news that the princess was coming. He found Gyffes building a trellis over the boat's deck, and under the trellis he had built a wooden seat. "What are you doing?" the fisherman asked angrily.

"Pardon me, please," said Gyffes. "I will remove this trellis and seat tomorrow. Only let my work stand for one day, and I will make a fine pair of dancing shoes for your daughter."

"Done," said the fisherman.

Gyffes covered the trellis with flowers: bluebells, red comfrey, and marigolds. All day long he worked at his bench, measuring and cutting and stitching the most beautiful and softest pair of slippers he had ever made in his entire life. At noon the next day came the princess. She had eyes as blue as the bluebells and hair as red as the red comfrey and a smile that made the marigolds nod their heads in joy.

As soon as Gyffes saw her, he fell in love. He knelt before the princess and nestled her left foot in a beautiful, soft slipper.

"How came you to Cardiff?" the princess asked.

"I came by boat," he said. "I kneel here before you, having come neither by horse nor by foot."

The princess looked at Gyffes Llaw and said, "I've never seen such a pretty boat—what a beautiful canopy of flowers."

"I built it myself," said Gyffes Llaw. "While it shelters you, you are neither inside nor out."

Gyffes Llaw nestled her right foot in a beautiful, soft slipper.

The princess looked at Gyffes Llaw and said, "This is a most comfortable bench."

Gyffes Llaw stood up. "I placed it myself," he said. "When you are sitting there and I am standing here, I seem to be above you and, yet, I am only a shoemaker, so I am always below."

"These are very beautiful, soft slippers," said the princess. "They do not pinch and they do not creak. You are a fine and clever shoemaker, and I will marry you."

And so they married, Gyffes Llaw and the princess. They lived together in great love and content, and their children never wanted for anything. Especially shoes.

3 In paragraph 2, which word can be used in place of fetch?

- A. throw
- B. get
- C. take
- D. search

4 In paragraph 3, the word bind means

- A. to bandage.
- B. to place beside each other.
- C. to tie together.
- D. to stack loosely.

5 Because the brothers' shoes creak, Gyffes

- A. hears them coming in the night.
- B. makes them each a new pair.
- C. shows them how to fix their shoes.
- D. hides their shoes from them.

6 The other shoemakers do not like Gyffes Llaw because

- A. they cannot make shoes as good as his.
- B. Gyffes is unfriendly to them.
- C. they think Gyffes is dishonest.
- D. Gyffes bought up all the leather.

7 What kind of man is Gyffes Llaw? Explain his qualities by using specific details from the folktale.

8 In the town with four gates, how are the shoemakers more clever than any of those in earlier towns?

- A. They learn Gyffes's skills before getting rid of him.
- B. They make friends with Gyffes and ask him to stay.
- C. They take their own shoes off.
- D. They buy shoes from Gyffes to copy.

9 The fisherman's reward for rescuing Gyffes is

- A. wooden benches.
- B. new sandals.
- C. colorful flowers.
- D. waterproof boots.

10 The princess is unusual because she

- A. always goes barefoot.
- B. has many pairs of shoes.
- C. loves sandals.
- D. wears only pink shoes.

11 How does the reader know the princess is clever?

- A. She is beautiful.
- B. She runs the kingdom.
- C. She goes barefoot.
- D. She likes flowers.

12 Explain how Gyffes is able to meet each of the princess's requirements for marriage. Use information from the folktale to support your answer.

Acknowledgments

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Grade 6 Reading Released Item Information

Released Item Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Content Strand ¹	WV	WV	WV	WV	LI	LA	LA	LA	LI	LI	LA	LA
GLE Code	5-3	5-3	5-2	5-3	5-4	5-5	5-5	5-5	5-4	5-4	5-5	5-5
Depth of Knowledge Code	2	1	1	2	1	2	3	2	1	2	2	3
Item Type ²	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR
Answer Key	A	D	B	C	A	A		C	D	A	B	
Total Possible Points	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	4

¹Content Strand: WV = Word ID/Vocabulary, LI = Literary/Initial Understanding, LA = Literary/Analysis & Interpretation,
 II = Informational/Initial Understanding, IA = Informational/Analysis & Interpretation

²Item Type: MC = Multiple-Choice, CR = Constructed Response



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
Support Materials
2005**

**Grade 6
Reading**

**NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 6 READING**

- 7 What kind of man is Gyffes Llaw? Explain his qualities by using specific details from the folktale.

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough explanation of Gyffes Llaw's qualities. Response includes relevant details from the folktale.
3	Response provides an explanation of Gyffes Llaw's qualities. Response includes some details from the folktale.
2	Response provides a partial explanation of Gyffes Llaw's qualities. Response uses limited details from the folktale.
1	Response is vague/minimal.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	no response

Training Notes:

Any response that can be supported by points in the folktale may be considered. Response does not have to name or identify a quality—describing a quality is acceptable.

Skilled:

Gyffes Llaw means deft hand in Welsh. His deftness made his shoes the best. They did not hurt and did not creak.

Clever (imaginative, creative, inventive):

He knew his brothers and other shoemakers were coming to hurt him so he escaped when he heard them coming.

He is able to trade with the fisherman for what he wants and needs: to be saved; to be taken to Cardiff; to be allowed to build a trellis and bench and remain on the fisherman's boat one more day. He knows what the fisherman needs.

Gyffes knows how to respond to the princess's criteria in order to be able to marry her.

Tenacious (never gave up):

Some men might have given up and taken up a new line of work. Gyffes does not and goes to three different towns.

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 6 READING

SCORE POINT 4

Gyffes Llaw is a very persistent man. We can see this when he moves from one town to another after he has been ambushed 2 times. Gyffes is also clever. This can be seen when he figures out how to marry the princess and solve her riddle. He is also very exact we can see this when the author says "The youngest son cut his leather with fine strokes and sewed his shoes with fine stitches."

The response provides a thorough explanation of Gyffes Llaw's qualities and includes relevant details from the folktale.

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 6 READING

SCORE POINT 3

Gyffes Llaw is a very talented person. he is very talented because he make shoes that not even his brothers could make! Also he can make a beautiful trellis made of flowers with a bench. Gyffes is also smart. He is smart because he hears his brothers, and the shoe makers coming and runs far away.

The response provides an explanation of Gyffes Llaw's qualities and includes some details from the folktale.

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 6 READING

SCORE POINT 2

He is a very gifted man, he can make shoes that don't pinch or creak and he got married to the princess.

The response provides a partial explanation and includes limited details.

SCORE POINT 1

Gyffes Llaur is a nice, clever man. I can't believe that the other shoemaker didn't like him.

The response is minimal.

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 6 READING

SCORE POINT 0

Gyffes lawes are nice lawes to
for a shoe maker.

The response is totally incorrect.

**NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 6 READING**

- 12** Explain how Gyffes is able to meet each of the princess's requirements for marriage. Use information from the folktale to support your answer.

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough explanation of how Gyffes is able to meet each of the princess's requirements for marriage. Response includes relevant information from the folktale.
3	Response provides an explanation of how Gyffes is able to meet each of the princess's requirements for marriage. Response includes some information from the folktale.
2	Response provides a partial explanation of how Gyffes is able to meet each of the princess's requirements for marriage. Response uses limited information from the folktale.
1	Response is vague/minimal.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	no response

Training Notes:

The princess's requirements for marrying are the man must

1. come to her neither on horse nor on foot.
2. welcome her neither inside nor out.
3. stand above her yet beneath her.

How Gyffes is able to meet the princess's requirements for marriage:

1. Gyffes comes to Cardiff by boat and stands on the boat when they meet.
2. Gyffes welcomes her under a trellis covered with flowers.
3. Gyffes builds a bench for the princess to sit on. When she sits on it, Gyffes is above her and, yet, being only a shoemaker, he is below her (in society).

SCORE POINT 4

Gyffes Llaw is able to meet all of the princess's requirements for marriage. I know this because her first requirement was not to come on horse nor foot, and Gyffes came on boat. Princess second requirement was that he must not welcome neither inside nor out, and Gyffes built a canopy of flowers to shelter her, not inside or out. Princess's third a final requirement was that the man she marries must stand above, yet remain beneath. That's when princess sat on the bench Gyffes made, and Gyffes explained that he stood above her, but he was no more than a shoemaker, so he would always stand below.

The response provides a thorough explanation of how Gyffes meets each of the requirements and includes relevant information from the folktale.

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 6 READING

SCORE POINT 3

He didn't come by foot nor horse, he came by boat. The boat shelters her and she is neither inside or out. Even though Gyffes was standing and she was sitting Gyffes is a shoemaker so he is always below her.

The response provides an explanation of how Gyffes meets the requirements and includes some information from the folktale.

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 6 READING

SCORE POINT 2

Gyffes met all her requirements because he did not travel to her on foot or by horse. He also made shelter was not inside or outside.

The response provides a partial explanation and includes limited information.

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 6 READING

SCORE POINT 1

Gyffes is able to know the Princess's requirements because the fisherman told him while they were talking in the boat.

The response is vague and minimal.

SCORE POINT 0

Since Gyffes is getting married he would probably need a crown like his new wife so he would be part of the kingdom.

The response does not address the question.